

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for selectively deploying one or more sequentially positioned medical appliances from a portable medical device to a target site, the apparatus comprising:

a body having a channel;

a string passing through the channel, the string being associated with at least two of the medical appliances from the sequentially positioned deployable medical appliances; and

a mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance to deploy a first of the medical appliances and for moving the string a predetermined second distance to deploy a second of the medical appliances

wherein the mechanism includes a slide that changes the length of the channel through which ~~one~~ the string passes when the slide is moved from a first position to a second position.

Claims 2-24. (Canceled) Without prejudice.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the slide is a plunger.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance further comprises an external handle slidably coupled to the outside surface of the body and a

stop along the surface of the body, the stop adapted to retard the longitudinal movement of the handle along the body.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance has a projection adapted to couple the apparatus to an endoscope.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance contains a plurality of plungers that are moveable so that the length of the channel through which the string passes is alterable.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance contains an anchoring point for the string.

30. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance is trumpet-valve shaped.

31. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance further comprises:

a shaft having an outside surface;

an external handle slidable along the shaft, the external handle coupled to the string;

a first stop positioned along the outside surface of the shaft; and

a second stop positioned along the outside surface of the shaft wherein at least one of the stops is adapted to retard the movement of the external handle along the shaft.

32. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein at least one of the stops is integrally formed with the shaft.

33. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the stop is compressible.

34. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein at least one of the appliances is a ligating band.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the body having a channel and the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance are integrally formed as a unit.

36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the mechanism for moving the string a predetermined first distance and for moving the string a predetermined second distance ~~include~~ includes a sliding component that contacts the string.